

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A plant protection device comprising in the form of a tube biodegradable tubular member adapted to surround a plant to be protected, the tubular member being formed, ~~characterised in that it consists of at least one parchmontized or vulcanized tubular fibrous support in the form of a sheet which is comprised of containing annual fibres, the device being biodegradable wherein the support sheet is parchmontized or vulcanized to impart water resistance and transparency thereto sufficient to allow for photosynthesis of the protected plant within the tubular member.~~
2. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the tubular member comprises ~~characterised in that it consists in two concentric tubes.~~
3. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that there is~~ further comprising a cut in the [[tube]] tubular member along the entire length thereof.
4. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that there is~~ further comprising a pre-cut in the [[tube]] tubular member along at least a part of the length or the entire length thereof.
5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein the fibrous support is comprised of [[contains]] at least 20 %, advantageously at least 50 %, preferably 75 % by weight of annual plant fibres.~~
6. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that the fibrous support comprises contains among other things~~ unbleached or bleached [[vegetal]] vegetable fibres obtained from coniferous or

deciduous plants, ~~[[and]] synthetic fibres, such as e.g. viscose, by themselves or as a mixture~~ and mixtures thereof.

7. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the parchmented or vulcanized fibrous support has a grammage of 50 – 250 g/m² ~~g/m², advantageously 100 g/m².~~
8. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein the support sheet ~~characterised in that it~~ has a transparency of between 15 % and 25 % ~~, advantageously of 20 %.~~
9. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the vulcanized or parchmented fibrous support includes at least one of ~~is covered with several~~ fungistatic, fungicidal and ~~[[or]]~~ bactericidal repulsive products sprayed to ~~[[the]]~~ a surface thereof.
10. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that it is a core produced by rolling spirally~~ the parchmented or vulcanized fibrous support is spirally wound to form the tubular member.
11. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 10, wherein the tubular member comprises ~~characterised in that the core is produced by superposing 2 – 15, advantageously 5, superposed~~ parchmented or vulcanized support sheets, and wherein a ~~[[the]]~~ lower face of each of the support sheets is ~~[[being]]~~ coated with an adhesive.
12. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 11, wherein the tubular member ~~characterised in that the core~~ has a diameter of at least 120 mm, ~~advantageously of 360 mm.~~
13. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 10, wherein the tubular member comprises ~~characterised in that the core is produced by~~

- ~~superposing 2 – 5, advantageously 3,~~ superposed parchmented or vulcanized sheets, wherein a ~~[[the]]~~ lower face of each sheet ~~[[being]]~~ is coated with an adhesive.
14. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 13, wherein the tubular member ~~characterised in that the core~~ has a grammage of 300 - 400 g/m² ~~g/m2, advantageously of 350 – 360 g/m2.~~
15. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the adhesive consists exclusively of biodegradable polymers chosen from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~ polyvinyl alcohol, natural rubber, starch, gelatine, polysaccharides, arabic gum, alginate and carboxymethyl cellulose.
16. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the fibrous support sheet comprises ~~[[is]]~~ a ~~[[folding]]~~ foldable corrugated sheet.
17. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 16, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the corrugated sheet is glued between two parchmented and/or vulcanized sheets.
18. (currently amended) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the fibrous support sheet has the form of a pot, the bottom of the pot being an inwardly folded ~~which is obtained by folding the free end of the tubular member~~ a core inwards.
19. (currently amended) A process for protecting a growing plant which comprises ~~protection process consisting in~~ positioning the plant protection device ~~forming the subject~~ of claim 1 around the plant.

20. (new) A device according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous support is comprised of at least 50 % by weight of annual plant fibres.
21. (new) A device according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous support is comprised of at least 75 % by weight of annual plant fibres.
22. (new) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein the parchmented or vulcanized fibrous support has a grammage of 100 g/m^2
23. (new) A plant protection device according to claim 1, wherein the support sheet has a transparency of 20 %.
24. (new) A plant protection device according to claim 13, wherein the tubular member has a grammage of $350 - 360 \text{ g/m}^2$